

**JOHN MARSH COWELL RANCH STATE PARK
GENERAL PLAN/EIR
Visioning & Scoping Meeting
Wednesday May 17, 2006
City of Brentwood Community Center
730 Third Street, Brentwood, CA 95413
6:00 – 9:00 PM
MEETING SUMMARY
Issue Date: June 22, 2006**

Agency Representatives

California State Parks

Donald Monahan, District Superintendent, California State Parks
Craig Mattson, Sector Superintendent, California State Parks
Stephen Bachman, Associate Park and Recreation Specialist, California State Parks
Brian Hickey, Project Manager, California State Parks
Lorrie Thomas-Dossett, District Maintenance Chief, California State Parks
Karen Barrett, Regional Interpretive Specialist, California State Parks
Cyndy Shafer, California State Parks
Marianne Hurley, Architectural Historian/State Historian II, California State Parks

City of Brentwood

Craig Bronzan, Director, City of Brentwood Parks and Recreation
Felix Errico, Park Planner, City of Brentwood
Ken DeSilva, Park Services Manager, City of Brentwood
Linda Stadlbauer, Park Planning Technician, City of Brentwood

EDAW

Donna Plunkett, Project Manager, EDAW
Susan Baumgartner, Landscape Designer, EDAW
Yanna McLaughlin, Environmental Planner, EDAW

The meeting began at 6:00pm. Craig Bronzan, Director of the City of Brentwood Parks and Recreation, opened the meeting and introduced members of the planning team from the City of Brentwood, including Project Manager, Felix Errico and several members of the John Marsh Historic Trust. He asked the audience if anyone was there representing the Vineyards at Marsh Creek, and there was no one present. Craig Mattson, Sector Superintendent for California State Parks then welcomed meeting participants to the General Plan Process and introduced members of the team representing California State Parks. The meeting proceeded according to the agenda and a summary follows below. He then introduced the Project Manager for the consultant team Donna Plunkett who then lead the next agenda item.

Planning Process Overview and Public Participation

Donna Plunkett introduced members of the team from EDAW and then gave a brief summary of the General Plan process, including some items that the Plan would cover such

as natural and cultural resource management, operations and maintenance, recreation and visitor use and a long term vision for the Park. She noted that as part of the planning process State Parks would need to go through the naming and classification process for the Park. She mentioned that there are many different classifications that Park units can have and it depends on the resources and how the unit will ultimately be used. Ms. Plunkett also noted that since the General Plan also includes a program level environmental impact report ("EIR") this meeting is also serving as the official CEQA scoping meeting. She stated that if anyone has any issues that they think need to be addressed in the environmental review, that they can provide that information tonight. She noted that there are comment cards that people can fill out if they do not want to speak.

Ms. Plunkett went over the hand-outs that were provided for the meeting tonight including a copy of the questionnaire that was mailed with the newsletter in the event anyone did not get one and would like to fill it out. She also noted the contact information sheet noting the locations where people can send comments or questions during the planning process. She stated that the City and State Parks both have websites that will continue to have up to date Plan information. She spoke about the schedule for the planning process and how stakeholders can continue to be involved. There will be at least two more public workshops and it is hoped that the Plan could go before the State Parks Commission for approval in the summer of 2007.

Project Overview

Brian Hickey gave a detailed project overview. To provide meeting participants with a framework for understanding the function of a General Plan, Mr. Hickey first went over the mission statement of California State Parks and then discussed the individual elements of a General Plan. The information that Brian went over was listed on flip chart sheets that are attached however a summary of this information is included herein.

To prepare meeting attendees with background information for the project, Mr. Hickey then reviewed planning topics and issues specific to the John Marsh Home. These topics include:

- House Restoration
- Use of House
- Attached Buildings
- Adobe
- Grounds
- Ranch Complex

Mr. Hickey then discussed the Issues and constraints that will affect planning at the John Marsh Home including the prehistoric nature of the site/Native American burial grounds, land easements/rights-of-way, and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance requirements. Next, Mr. Hickey reviewed planning topics and issues specific to Cowell Ranch. These topics include:

- Recreation/Public Use
- Facilities/Trails/Parking/Access

- Natural and Cultural Resources
- Orchard and Grazing Leases
- Interpretation of site

Issues and constraints specific to Cowell Ranch include:

- Grazing
- Trail Development
- Endangered/Sensitive Species
- Statewide Needs
- Demographics

Question and Answer Session

Ms. Plunkett then introduced and led the next item on the agenda, the Question and Answer Session. Ms. Plunkett asked meeting participants for questions or comments, also letting people know that if they had comments or questions, but wished to refrain from speaking, comment cards were available in the back that could be filled out and left with the planning team.

Q: (Anonymous Participant) Have Native American tribes yet been made aware of the presence of the burial site on the John Marsh/Cowell Ranch Property.

A: Ms. Plunkett responded that yes, the Indian Heritage Commission had been formally notified of the existence of the burial site and of the project.

Q: Gene Metz (John Marsh Historic Trust) commented that the John Marsh Historic Trust was not solely interested in the House, but also in the development of the surrounding lands. The Trust feels that the House was a symbol of the history of John Marsh and the culture of the time period in which he lived. It is the opinion of the Trust that the House be restored to its original state.

Q: Brian Kruse asked about the Contra Costa County Flood Control District (CCCFCFCD) Reservoir and if and/or how the team would be working with the CCCFCFCD during the planning process.

A: Paul Detjens, (CCCFCFCD) spoke and identified himself as a stakeholder and representative of the Flood Control District and stated that the CCCFCFCD desired to be a good neighbor with the John Marsh Home/Cowell Ranch property and that they would work cooperatively with all stakeholders during the process.

Q: (Anonymous Participant) Asked about trail connectivity between Cowell Ranch and Round Valley Regional Park.

A: Brian Hickey stated that the planning process intends to identify important trail connections between Cowell Ranch and adjacent open space lands and would sensibly connect to local trails when possible in order to meet the needs of the public.

Jamie Perkins (EBRPD) stated also that the East Bay Regional Park District was interested in working with the team in order to make open space connections. Ms. Perkins indicated that there would likely be paved trails in urban areas and dirt/gravel trails in remote locations to maintain the “back-country” feel.

Larry (Contra Costa Water District/Los Vaqueros Reservoir) stated that the CCWD is interested in a regional trail system, and noted two trail head connections that are significant between Los Vaqueros open space and Cowell Ranch. Larry also expressed interest in the Marsh Creek Watershed and restoration of Marsh Creek.

Q: Seth Adams (Save Mt. Diablo) stated that Save Mt. Diablo organization was primarily interested in saving resources (natural) and house secondarily. They support the expansion of Cowell Ranch through the addition of new lands. The organization supports the re-introduction of native species and specified a number of different species (list available). Seth stated that grazing produces a different type of [natural] environment, but is acceptable to the organization as a management tool. They supported multi-use passive recreation, noting specifically the expansion of Mt. Diablo Trail through Cowell Ranch. The organization proposes a 6-mile “Grand Loop” trail that would link regional open space areas. The organization is in disagreement with earlier comments regarding Marsh Creek Reservoir and supports the pursuit of a joint agreement [between the park and CCCFCD] that would allow access between the two sides of the park. The organization believes that visitor use (should be concentrated around the house and orchards [already developed areas within the park]. The organization has no formal position on the Park’s name but Seth suggested perhaps two names that would distinguish the park from the house. The organization has special interest in the sand quarries due to the presence of rare and endangered species at that specific area of the park. They are also interested in the preservation of the vernal pools. The organization supports acquisition of areas east of Cowell Ranch, specifically Kellogg Creek. Seth noted that Save Mt. Diablo has prepared a formal letter with comments including a list of trails and staging areas that they feel would be appropriate additions to the system. Paul (CCFCD) requested a copy of that publication.

Joan Douglas (Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed) supports the restoration of Marsh Creek.

Donna Plunkett proceeded to introduce the breakout sessions using the attached handout which described the key questions that would be reviewed during sessions.

Break-Out Groups/Visioning Session

The meeting attendees broke out into four groups to generate comments and provide feedback to assist in the planning process. Each group was led by a facilitator that was a member of the planning team. Each group was provided with maps of the Park, which could be used to post site-specific information. Facilitators recorded comments from the sessions on flip charts, and these comments are listed as follows. To ensure consistency of content amongst the different groups, each facilitator was given several questions to use to generate comments. These questions are:

- What sensitive resource information should be considered for this area
- What do you think are the 3 most important issues that the General Plan should address?

- What areas of the property have you visited? (mark on maps provided)
- What recreational opportunities should be considered in the Plan?
- What do you think should happen with the John Marsh House?
- What facilities should be developed at Cowell Ranch?

Visioning Session Summaries

Each break-out group was instructed to select one individual that would represent them and summarize their discussion to the entire group. The summaries are as follows, and are listed by the group's facilitator followed by a list of the items recorded on the flip chart notes.

Brian Hickey (yellow group) – Barry Margesson presented the summary points

- Control grazing
- Restore and preserve native species
- Studies
- Land Acquisition/Easement
- Trails- linkage to Mt. Diablo, Bay, Delta, 60-mile loop. A node in California-wide network
- Species management
- Acreage (14) around Marsh house also a cultural preserve. Important to respect both cultural and natural resources.
- “Living History” at John Marsh House
- Suggest hosting nature hikes
- Staging area for hiking loop
- Restoration – use Adobe for Visitor Center
- Facilities: trails, camping, working ranch, adobe village

Flip chart notes from Brian Hickey's Group (yellow)

- John Marsh Trust
- East Contra Costa and Contra Costa Historical Society
- John McKenzie – oral history (local who owns Marsh artifacts)
- Vineyards generated reports at Marsh Creek
- Cowell Ranch developments – 1993
- Protect open space and species – restore to original condition
- Save and restore “The House”
- Cultural and archeological resources
- Story of the flow of history 1000 BC to present
- Evaluation of benefits of controlled grazing for resource improvement
- Reservoir and park managed together
- Sensitive facility placements
- Additional acquisitions
- Reservoir
- John Marsh House
- Open space and species preservation

- Interpretation and education
- Trail linkage
- Invasive and exotic species
- Riparian/creek restoration
- Wildfire management plan
- Agricultural demonstration area
- Facilities/Hiking, biking and equestrian trails
- Camping-trail, car and group
- Cultural and nature/interpretive center
- Special events at Marsh House
- Living history
- Picnicking
- No motorized recreational vehicles
- Visitor/nature center
- Rebuild adobe
- Staging areas
- Clean up ranch complex to function as working ranch
- Indian village
- Day use/picnic area

Marianne Hurley/Cyndy Shafer (Blue Group) - Jamie Perkins (EBRPD) presented the summary points

Sensitive Resources

- Classified into different types of use because of different segments/areas of park
- Wildlife movement corridors
- Protecting historic/archeological resources
- Protecting endangered species
- John Marsh House

3 Most Important Issues

- Restoration of House; Native American Center / Interpretation; Interpretation of Agricultural History
- Public Access / Trails and Recreation
- Park Connectivity
- Would like multiple-use trails
- Passive uses- Backcountry Experience
- Uses appropriate to site, i.e., backpack camping only
- Parking only at House or designated staging area
- If restored, use John Marsh House as meeting center instead of as museum [active use] or leave house as is “frozen in time.”
- Would like to see fruit stand or other concessions at house as new facilities

Flip chart notes from Marianne Hurley's Group (Blue)

What sensitive resource information should be considered for this area

- Prehistoric/archeological sites
- Prehistoric/archeological sites
- Regional trail connections (recreational resources)
 - Marsh Creek trail to Round Valley Preserve
 - Black Diamond Mines to Round Valley
- Endangered/rare species (i.e., kit fox) (flora and fauna)
- Wildlife movement corridors
- Restoration of John Marsh home/Adobe
- Native American Interpretive Center
- Interpretation of agricultural history

What do you think are the 3 most important issues that the General Plan should address?

- Public access/trails and recreation
- Connectivity of pieces of the park (i.e., across reservoir)
- Restoration of native vegetation
- What areas of the property have you visited? (mark upon maps provided)

What recreational opportunities should be considered in the Plan?

- Hiking
- Biking
- Equestrian use
- Internal trail circulation
- Picnicking
- Camping – backcountry (designed to not impact natural/cultural resources)

What do you think should happen with the John Marsh House?

- Cultural Center – multi-use for the community (as opposed to a museum)
- Parking lot for house to be used as a staging area for trail users
- Partnership with Los Medanos College
- Museum with historic furnishings and exhibits
- Leave it be as “ruins”

What facilities should be developed at Cowell Ranch?

- Restrooms
- Parking lot(s)
- Staging areas
- Trails
- Walk-in campground
- Concessions
- Fruit stand

**Yanna McLaughlin (Green Group) – Patricia Bristow (John Marsh Historic Trust)
presented the summary points**

Sensitive Resources Identified

- Native American Burial Site

- John Marsh House- would like to see restored to 1840-50s condition
- Golden Eagles
- Natural Habitat/ Preserve
- Grazing- not sure whether should continue
- Natural Resource theme throughout Park
- Would like the Park experience to be like traveling back in time
- No RVs allowed in Park; trailhead staging areas extent of vehicular access
- Use sustainable building materials
- Would like house to be utilized to generate income- perhaps rent out for weddings
- Restrooms/Parking shared with City at Amphitheater & Vineyard
- Access limited to Bicycles, Pedestrians, Horses
- No asphalt paving in Park
- Educational Experience for students
- Spend night
- Would like children to be able to experience / understand Native American culture
- Agricultural Tourism- Apple Orchards (what Abby wanted for the site), Vineyards
- Interpret Miwok influence
- Use historical codes/guidelines to make house stable

Flip chart notes from Yanna McLaughlin's Group (green)

What sensitive resource information should be considered for this area

- Native American resources
- Burial Sites
- John Marsh House
- Golden eagles (?)
- Natural habitat
- Problem with the cattle
- Cultural resources/theme

What do you think are the 3 most important issues that the General Plan should address?

- Restore the John Muir House and surrounding landscape
- Trail use and connectivity to other trails (including equestrian use and general trail use)
- Habitat and open space restoration/create destination
- Sustainability and green building (keep it natural)
- Allow events

What recreational opportunities should be considered in the Plan?

- Trails – pedestrian, bicycle, equestrian
- Educational focus and trips
- Overnight experience
- Guided tours

- Orchards and vineyards
- Agricultural tourism and eco-tourism
- Historic – travel back in time

What do you think should happen with the John Marsh House?

- Completely restore and show Miwok influence
- Use State historical building codes and guidelines
- Use sustainable building materials

What facilities should be developed at Cowell Ranch?

- No facilities on surrounding areas except for:
 - Trailheads and trails
 - Interpretive Materials/facilities
 - Share restroom facilities with adjacent property

Karen Barrett & Lorrie Thomas-Dossett (Red Group) Gene Metz (John Marsh Historic Trust) presented the summary points

- Preserve Sensitive Environments
- Arrest erosion
- Preserve Creek
- Replace early landscaping
- Continue agriculture- organically
- Acknowledge pre-history
- Restore house to pre- 1860s condition; learn about history of that period through house
- Use house for educational, cultural, and entertainment purposes
- Explore how to knit together fragmented areas of Park
- Land swaps, easements, uses in keeping with sensitive park environment
- Acknowledge management is necessary [associated budget limitations] use docents in park to fill in for management [paid staff] when possible-
- Docents lead tours/hikes
- Dark Sky- explore whether this can be returned to park-
- Hiking, educational field trips
- Very carefully controlled camping
- Managed Grazing- all animals on property managed in a sensitive and historic fashion
- Maintain view shed
- Bypass development across Marsh Creek
- Screen/Softened edges of property to focus attention inward on property

Flip chart notes from Karen Barrett's Group (Red)

What sensitive resource information should be considered for this area?

- Native American history
- John Marsh House – History tie to area
- Adobe

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- Transition of history
- Flowage easement (see map)
- Flood Control Water District
- Future use of Flood District Land (trail corridors)
- Potential cooperative use
- Future flood district project/development
- Trail corridor/connection (flood district, other land owners)
- Cultural resources
- Natural resources
- Marsh Creek Watershed Restoration
- Fish ladder – Flood District
- Cultural Landscape

What do you think are the 3 most important issues that the General Plan should address?

- Public access
- Protection of cultural/natural resources
- Knowledge of and education of historic period
- What areas of the property have you visited? (mark upon maps provided)
- See Map
- What recreational opportunities should be considered in the Plan?
- Day use
- Seasonal camping
- Hiking
- Educational field trips
- Docent lead trips/hikes
- Observatory
- City amphitheater

What do you think should happen with the John Marsh House?

- Restore and protect John Marsh home to pre-1868
- Managed grazing as opposed to historic grazing
- Providing water for grazing (off bank water)
- Protection of view shed
- Incorporation of park areas – connection (those separated by road, flood district); (fragmented etc and base how to make whole)
- Land swap?
- Long-term easements (agricultural use?)

What facilities should be developed at Cowell Ranch?

- Historic corridor to ranch connection to John Marsh Home

There was a flip chart set aside to allow people to list any ideas for naming the park and following represents what people wrote:

Not “Cowell Ranch”

Marsh Creek State Park

Los Meganos State Park

John Marsh / Cowell Ranch General Plan & EIR
Visioning and Scoping Meeting

John Marsh Historic (House) State Park
Los Megacenos Historic Preserve
John Marsh Cultural Preserve

Ms. Plunkett then asked the group if there were any additional questions or comments:

Q: Carol (John Marsh Historic Trust) let the group know of events/activities sponsored by the John Marsh Historic Trust:

Saturday June 3, 2006. Box lunch and tour of House

September 24, 2006 Marsh's Birthday Part

October 21, 2006. Starlight Dinner- fundraiser for Trust.

Ms. Plunkett thanked the group for attending and for their participation and convened the meeting at approximately 8:45 PM.

Handouts Available at Meeting

- Meeting Agenda
- Break-out Group Instructions
- Contact List
- Comment Card
- Questionnaire
- Newsletter

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
AND
CITY OF BRENTWOOD
PUBLIC WORKSHOP 1
FOR
JOHN MARSH COWELL RANCH STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN & EIR
Wednesday, May 17, 2006
City of Brentwood Parks and Recreation Department
6:00 - 9:00 pm.

PLEASE SIGN IN

(please print clearly and use as many lines as necessary)

NAME/AGENCY	ADDRESS	PHONE/FAX/EMAIL
SUAN BAUMGARTNER	ETAN SAN FRANCISCO	(415) 672-9067
SETH ADAMS	SAVE MOUNT DIABLO	925 947-3535
	1901 Olympic Blvd., Suite 220, Walnut Creek, CA 94596	
Sandra Massey	4949 Snyder Lane #38 Robert Park, CA 94928	
Amber Brumfiel	241 Sunnyside Ave, Piedmont 94611	
• PAUL DETJENS	255 GLACIER DR, MARTINES	pdetj@pwcccounty.us
Seth Litchner	1400 Tent St. Sacramento	Seth.Litchner@opr.ca.gov
Den Bowman	631 Pomona Dr Brentwood, CA 94513	
JUDY SECOR	339 GLADSTONE DR	" " "
Margaret + Brian Kruse	18201 Marsh Creek Rd Brentwood	945B
Virginia Stender	P.O. Box 11, Oakley	634-4927

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

AND

CITY OF BRENTWOOD

PUBLIC WORKSHOP 1

FOR

JOHN MARSH COWELL RANCH STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN & EIR

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

City of Brentwood Parks and Recreation Department

6:00 - 9:00 pm.

PLEASE SIGN IN

(please print clearly and use as many lines as necessary)

NAME/AGENCY

ADDRESS

PHONE/FAX/EMAIL

CRAIG BRONZAN, City of Brentwood

708 8th St

925-846-5365

BRIAN HICKEY 96 MITCHELL Canyon, Clayton 559-683-7906

Tanna Plunkett EDANW 150 Chestnut St. SF 94111. 415/433-1433

Rob Shattling P.O. Box 846 Isleton CA 95641 916-777-6527

LARRY BROWN Contra Costa Water Dist. PO Box 420 Concord, CA 95624

Sally Massey 3338 Hacienda Way Antioch, CA 94509 925 754-0786 (925) 240-2363

James Harrison 431 Lowe Rd Bay Point 94565

GENE METZ, 9 REGULUS Ct., ALAMEDA, CA

510-522-1437, 510-522-1562, mngmetz@pacbell.net

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Karen Wahl City of Brentwood 708 Third St. Brentwood 925-846-5365 kwahl@ci.brentwood.ca.us

Jamie Perkins EBRPD 2950 peralta oak Ct. Oakland, 94605 jperkins@cbparks.org

Barbara Russell-Cambra Brentwood, CA 94513-2710

Allison IRISH 1110 Chaucer Dr. Brentwood 94513 634-2640

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
AND
CITY OF BRENTWOOD
PUBLIC WORKSHOP 1
FOR
JOHN MARSH COWELL RANCH STATE PARK GENERAL PLAN & EIR
Wednesday, May 17, 2006
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6:00 - 9:00 pm.

PLEASE SIGN IN

(please print clearly and use as many lines as necessary)

NAME/AGENCY	ADDRESS	PHONE/FAX/EMAIL
^{EDWIN} YANNA McLAUGHLIN	150 CHESTNUT ST	415-955-2837 mclaughlin@edwin.org
FELIX ERICO	CITY OF BRENTWOOD	925 516 5348 ✓
Harry Sillocks	East Bay Trail/Day	925-483-3921
Ken DeSilva	City of Brentwood	925-516-5375
Karen Barrett	CA State Parks	707 769-5652 x217 parks@ca.gov ^{KBarre}
Jinda Stadlbauer	City of Brentwood	925-516-5353
Sue Barry	430 Gristmill Pkwy Brentwood	925-516-5363
Charlie Gresser	1610 Dawn View Dr	925-525-5725
Barry Margesson	2680 Virginia Dr. Brent.	925 634-4566
Dan Hanel	545 McIntosh Terrace Brentwood	hanel.d@libertyuhisd.k12.ca.us
Carol Jensen	3155 Octavia #7, San Francisco, CA 94123	CA Jensen & Computer Services com
Kathy Leighton	PO Box 52, Byron 94514	634-0917 Leightonconst@aol.com
Tanya Rose	1700 Cavallo Rd	779-7139 trose@lctimes.com
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PLEASE SIGN IN

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Sandy Myers 751 Campanella Way 925-634-2422
John Myers " " "
Joan Douglas 527 Nottingham Dr. 925-634-2331
Mike Fry " " " "
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Patricia Bristow 83 Payne Ave Brentwood 634-3474
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DAVID FOWLER 5400 Byron Hot Springs Rd.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
AND
CITY OF BRENTWOOD
**VISIONING
AND
SCOPING MEETING**
FOR
JOHN MARSH / COWELL RANCH GENERAL PLAN & EIR

Wednesday, May 17, 2006
City of Brentwood Community Center
730 Third Street, Brentwood, CA 94513
6:00 – 9:00 PM

6:00-6:15 pm - Sign-In and Introduction

- Team Overview – City of Brentwood Parks and Recreation (*Craig Bronzan, Director*) and California State Parks (*Craig Mattson, Sector Superintendent Diablo Vista District – Bay Sector*)

6:30-6:45 pm Planning Process Overview & Public Participation

- Overview of General Plan process
- Highlights of public participation program
- Scoping Topics

6:45-7:15 pm Project Overview

- John Marsh / Cowell Ranch General Plan & EIR
 - General Overview History (Brian Hickey, *Diablo Vista District*)
 - Issues/Topics for GP

7:15-7:30 pm Question & Answer

- Public Comment Period (written comment cards are available if you do not wish to speak)

7:30-8:20 pm Break-out Groups – Visioning Session

- Mapping exercise (tell us what you know)

8:20-8:45 pm Visioning Session Summaries

- Prioritize key issues to address in General Plan

8:45-9:00 pm Conclusions & Next Steps

C o w e l l R a n c h / J o h n M a r s h G e n e r a l P l a n

B R E A K - O U T G R O U P A C T I V I T Y

A G E N D A & I N S T R U C T I O N S

Purpose: To provide the public an opportunity to share their knowledge about the Cowell Ranch property and the surrounding areas. To allow the public to provide information about challenges and opportunities that should be addressed in the General Plan.

Outcome: Allow you to receive new information, provide input to the planning team that will help formulate the Plan, share your knowledge, views and related information that will ensure that the Plan covers a wide range of topics.

7:30 p.m. Facilitator Welcome and Group Introductions

7:35–8:10 pm Break-Out Group Activity

- Review material
- Select a group speaker
- **BEGIN ACTIVITY: PLEASE RESPOND TO EACH QUESTION**

- What sensitive resource information should be considered for this area?
- What do you think are the 3 most important issues that the General Plan should address?
- What areas of the property have you visited? (please mark-up maps)
- What recreational opportunities should be considered in the Plan?
- What do you think should happen with the John Marsh House?
- What facilities should be developed at Cowell Ranch?

Other comments/questions that you would like to share?

8:10 p.m. Quick recap for the volunteer speaker

8:20 p.m. Reconvene at main seating area

NOTE A separate station (NAME STATION) will be set up to allow you to record your ideas for a name for the Park. Please add your ideas to the flip chart and be sure to include why you think your suggestion is a good choice.

Place
Stamp
Here

Craig Mattson, Sector Superintendent
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Diablo Vista District – Bay Sector
96 Mitchell Canyon Road
Clayton, CA 94517

John Marsh / Cowell Ranch General Plan & EIR
Comments and Questions
Contact List

Comments can be mailed to the following persons:

Craig Mattson Sector Superintendent
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Diablo Vista District – Bay Sector
96 Mitchell Canyon Road
Clayton, CA 94517
Telephone: (925) 673-2895
Fax: (925) 673-0160
E-mail: cmatt@parks.ca.gov

Felix Errico Planner
City of Brentwood
Parks and Recreation Department
730 Third Street
Brentwood, CA 94513-1359
Telephone: (925) 516-5348
Fax: (925) 516-5445
E-mail: ferrico@ci.brentwood.ca.us

Updates to the Planning Process:

State Parks Website
www.parks.ca.gov
(navigate to “General Plans”)

City of Brentwood Website
<http://www.ci.brentwood.ca.us/departments/parks/marsh.cfm>



California Department of Parks and Recreation
Diablo Vista District - Bay Sector
96 Mitchell Canyon Road
Clayton, CA 94517



John Marsh / Cowell Ranch GENERAL PLAN



NEWSLETTER #1



JOHN MARSH / COWELL RANCH

Calendar of Events

PLANNING PROCESS AT A GLANCE

WINTER/SPRING 2006	SPRING/SUMMER 2006	FALL 2006	WINTER 2007	SPRING 2007
Information Gathering Fieldwork PUBLIC PLANNING WORKSHOP #1	Summarize Existing Conditions Discuss Challenges and Opportunities Develop Plan Alternatives	PUBLIC PLANNING WORKSHOP #2 Refine Plan Alternatives Develop Draft General Plan	Finalize Draft Plan and Environmental Review PUBLIC PLANNING WORKSHOP #3 Prepare Final Environmental Review	Commission Hearing and Approval Distribute Final Plans and Environmental Review Agency Approvals

PARTICIPATION IS THE KEY TO A GREAT PLAN!

If you are not currently on our mailing list and would like to receive the planning update and notice about future workshops, or wish to send written comments, please contact us at:

California Department of Parks and Recreation
Diablo Vista District - Bay Sector
96 Mitchell Canyon Road
Clayton, CA 94517
925.673.2895
(for questions or comments about the General Plan Process)

Contact Information

Visit Our Website
www.parks.ca.gov
(General Plans in Progress)



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EDAW

PARTNERS IN PARK PLANNING

In a collaborative partnership, California State Parks and the City of Brentwood Parks and Recreation Department are launching a joint planning process to plan for the future development of John Marsh / Cowell Ranch. Working together with the community, this planning process will create a vision for the future, provide recommendations for the future of the historic John Marsh House, public recreation access, and natural resource management as well as set guidelines for implementation of a long term vision for the Park so it can be enjoyed for years to come. We invite you to join us in envisioning the Park's future!

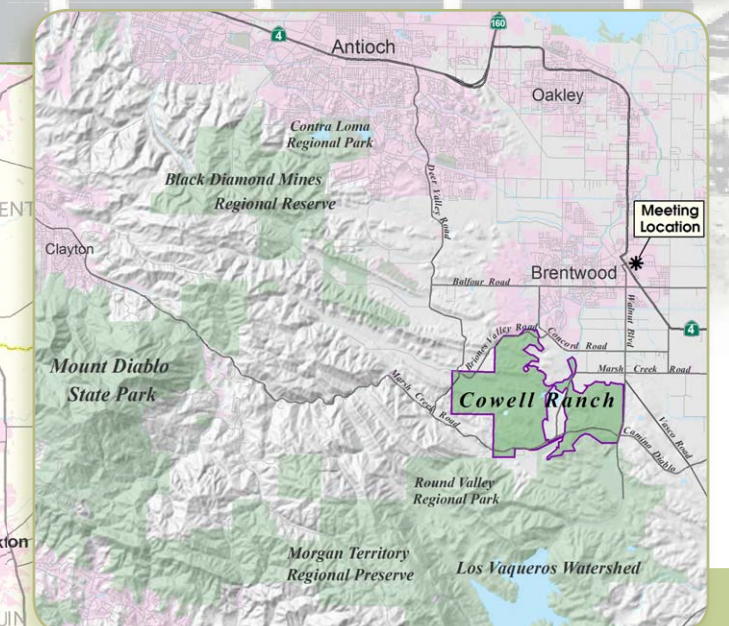
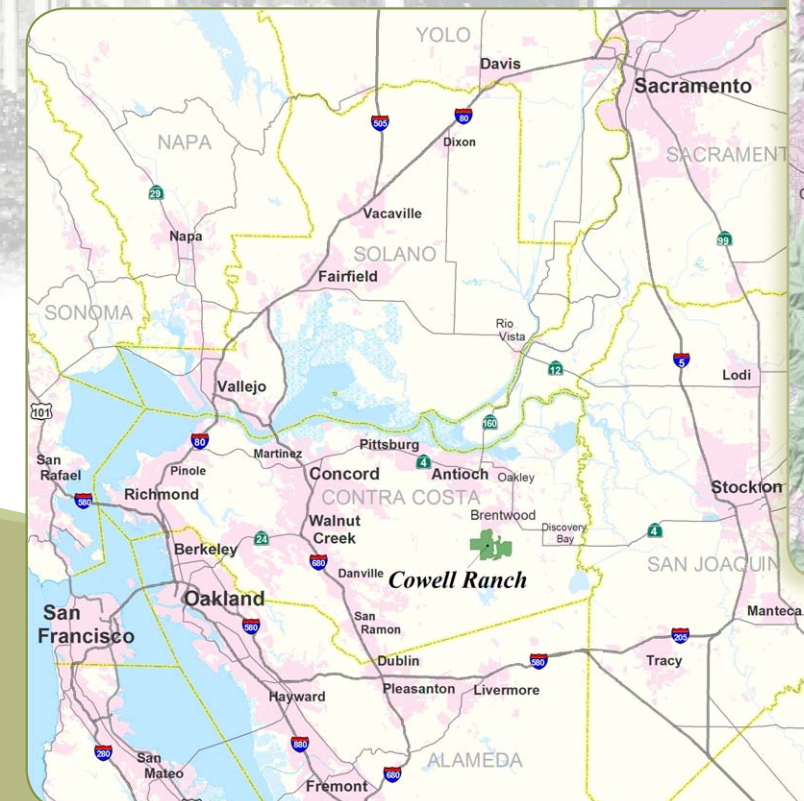
John Marsh / Cowell Ranch encompasses nearly 4000 acres of natural habitat, wildlife, and unique cultural features, including the John Marsh House, nestled within one of California's fastest growing regions. Through the efforts of concerned citizens as well as the Trust for Public Land and other public entities, John Marsh / Cowell Ranch is one of California's newest state parks. We welcome your ideas and suggestions for future public use and preservation of this valuable resource. You can start by filling out the enclosed questionnaire and attending the Public Planning Workshop on May 17. Early public input will provide us insights into your priorities, desires and concerns as we begin planning for the diverse resources at this new state park.

HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE?

Stay Informed: This and future newsletters will keep you informed of the progress of the General Plan process. Over the next year and a half, we'll be working together to discuss and evaluate a variety of planning topics including recreation facilities, cultural and historic resources, habitat protection, and education and interpretive programs, to name just a few. This newsletter will track our progress and notify you of upcoming opportunities for public participation and input. Additionally, you can visit the California State Parks website noted on the back.

Fill Out the Questionnaire: The enclosed questionnaire will help us understand your key issues, ideas and concerns. Tell us how you think the Park could best serve the needs of its surrounding communities. What features would you like the Park to offer, and how you see the Park fitting in with the existing fabric of open space and recreation within the region.

Attend the Public Planning Workshops: We will host three public workshops for the John Marsh / Cowell Ranch General Plan. The first workshop will be held on May 17 at the City of Brentwood's Community Center. The workshop will provide a forum to share your knowledge and experiences about the history of the and adjacent land and to identify topics and issues to explore during the planning process. Please join us!



Public Planning Workshop
Wednesday, May 17, 2006
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
City of Brentwood
Community Center
730 Third Street
Brentwood, CA 94513
925.516.5444

APRIL 2006



John Marsh / Cowell Ranch GENERAL PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE



Your Name: _____
Organization (if any): _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Phone (optional): _____
E-mail (optional): _____

**Would you like to remain on our mailing list to receive
future Planning Updates?**

Yes No

☐☐

Have you ever visited John Marsh House? _____

What did you do on your visit? _____

How far did you travel to visit the House? (miles) _____

What time of the year did you visit the Park? (month/year) _____

What do you value most about John Marsh / Cowell Ranch? _____

What was your favorite feature or experience at the site? _____

What did you like least about the site? _____

What do you think can be done to enhance the House and surrounding property?

After you left the site, what did you remember? _____

Is there anything else you would like to share with us? _____

----- _please fold in thirds_ -----
tape it closed, affix a 39 cent stamp and mail by May 31, 2006 Thank you!

requires
39 cent
stamp

California State Parks
Diablo Vista District - Bay Sector
96 Mitchell Canyon Road
Clayton, CA 94517



John Marsh / Cowell Ranch



The John Marsh / Cowell Ranch is located southwest of the City of Brentwood in eastern Contra Costa County. It lies within the rolling foothills of the Diablo Mountain Range. Mount Diablo's peak is 10.5 miles from the center of the site. The John Marsh House and 14 adjoining acres were acquired by California State Parks in 1978. In November of 2002, an additional 3,746 acres adjacent to the House were acquired from the Cowell Foundation through the efforts of the Trust for Public Lands and other public entities.

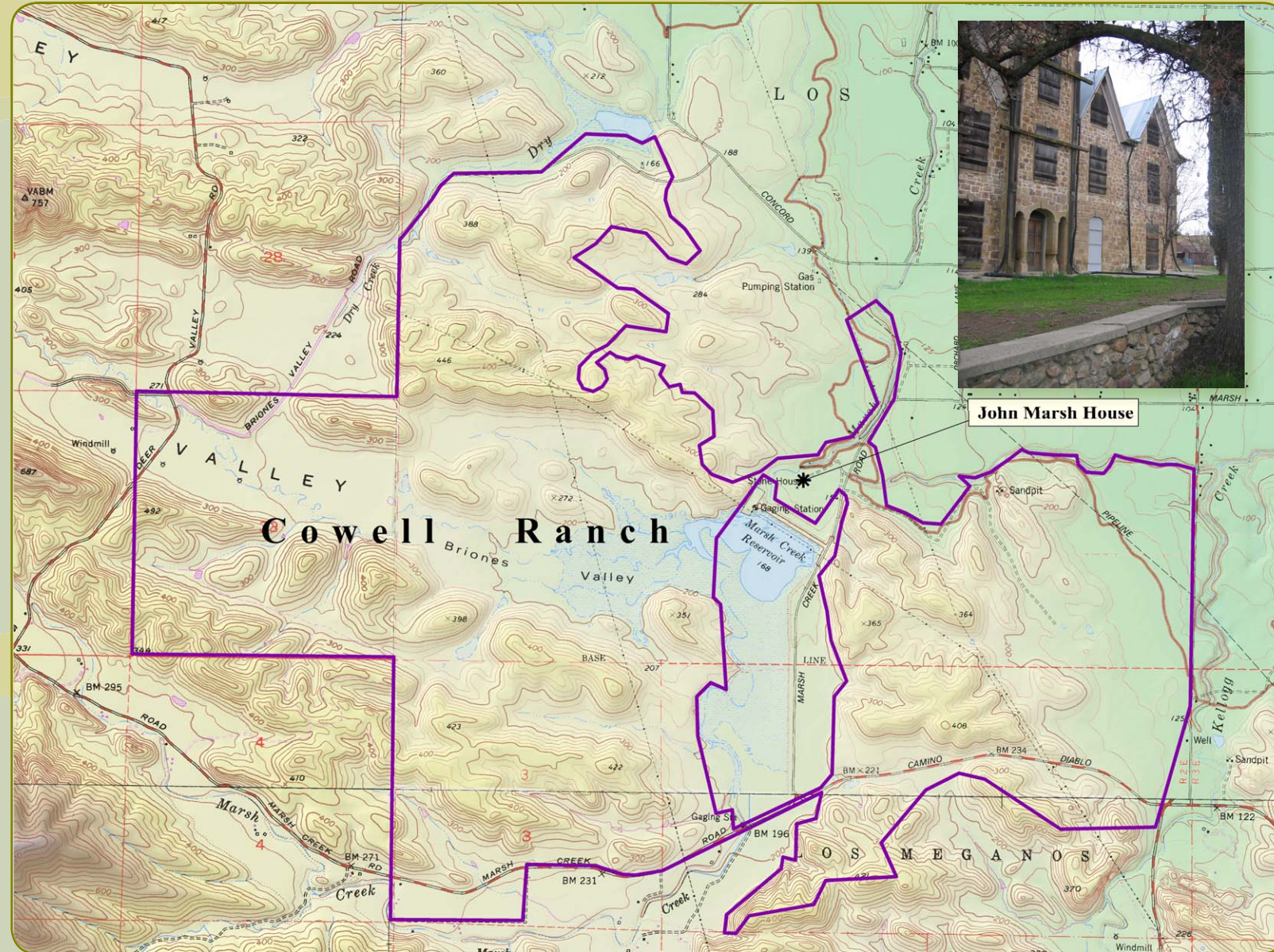
The Park provides an additional link in over 81,000 acres of contiguous public open space within the region. Vital not only for the potential visitor recreation opportunities but for its open space values and ecological diversity including wildlife habitat, native plant communities and a rich array of pre-historic and landscape-based cultural resources as well as the history of John Marsh and his influence on the region. Completion of the General Plan will provide a long term vision for the Park as well as a strategy for the rehabilitation of the John Marsh House and opportunities for recreation and long term resource management.

JOHN MARSH / COWELL RANCH RESOURCES

John Marsh / Cowell Ranch is part of a large, contiguous grassland, savanna, and oak woodland habitat that extends through Contra Costa and Alameda Counties, containing a portion of Briones Valley. Other important habitats found within the Park are vernal pools, wetlands and Marsh Creek. This region is the northernmost habitat for the state threatened/federally endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox, and Cowell Ranch is known to support populations of other threatened or endangered species, such as the burrowing owl, California tiger salamander and vernal pool fairy shrimp.

John Marsh / Cowell Ranch resources include:

- Historic architecture
- Ranch and agricultural historic landscape
- Native American resources
- Marsh Creek and riparian habitat
- Vernal pools
- Briones Valley



PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

The John Marsh / Cowell Ranch is unique because California State Parks and the City of Brentwood have formed a special partnership to create a Plan for the Park. The two agencies will work closely together throughout the planning process and to craft a long term strategy that is responsive to the local and regional community. This partnership, along with consultation with other local and state entities will result in the potential for unique cooperative agreements for operation and management of facilities and resources, ensuring successful Plan implementation.

As part of the planning process the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report will be integrated with the development of the Plan to reduce potential harmful environmental effects to Park resources. Alternatives will be developed to provide a range of options for future use and management of the Park. Together the Plan and environmental review process will be designed to allow for full public participation and review. We encourage you to follow our timeline and stay involved!

GENERAL PLAN PUBLIC PROCESS

Information Gathering + Fieldwork

- Site Orientation
- Resource inventory and data collection
- Stakeholder interviews

Existing Conditions Summary

- Additional data collection, review and field reconnaissance
- Public knowledge exchange workshop
- Identify stakeholder issues

Challenges and Opportunities

- Analyze challenges and opportunities
- Develop plan alternatives
- Public workshop to discuss alternatives

Draft Plan Preparation

- Develop plan policies and guidelines
- Public open house
- Environmental impact analysis and mitigation
- Draft plan public workshop
- Final plan approval



Some topics that will be considered in the General Plan process include:

- Visitor use and facilities alternatives
- Comprehensive cultural resource management
- Interpretive themes and educational opportunities
- Park operations and maintenance facilities
- Relationship to the adjacent Marsh Creek Reservoir